

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OPR-02 SY-04 DRC-01 AID-20 OMB-01 PC-10

SCCT-02 NIC-01 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 USSS-00

NEAE-00 /143 W

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P R 061221Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8162

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PK

SUBJECT: LABOR/SECTARIAN UNREST MOVES FROM HYDERABAD
TO KARACHI

REF: KARACHI 1230

1. AS HYDERABAD APPEARED SLOWLY TO BE RETURNING TO
NEAR NORMAL CONDITIONS FOLLOWING STREET DEMONSTRATIONS
PROTESTING BYE ELECTION RESULTS THERE REPORTED REFTEL,
UNREST, BASED ON SECTARIAN AS WELL AS LABOR ISSUES, IS
INCREASING IN KARACHI.

2. ON JUNE 6, STUDENTS ORGANIZED PROCESSION IN CENTRAL
KARACHI TO PROTEST BOTH RABWAH INCIDENT AND RECENT
REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENT ACTIONS. PROCESSION WAS MET
BY POLICE NEAR RADIO PAKISTAN BUILDING. WHEN STUDENTS FAILED
TO DISPERSE POLICE USED TEAR GAS AND STUDENTS IN TURN STONED
POLICE. ANGRY STUDENTS SPREAD OUT ON M.A. JINNAH ROAD AND
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STONED AND ATTEMPTED SET FIRE TO QAISER CINEMA, WHICH GENERALLY

KNOWN TO BE OWNED BY MEMBER AHMADYA COMMUNITY. STUDENTS, PROBABLY JOINED BY OTHER UNRULY ELEMENTS, ALSO BURNED GOVERNMENT-OWNED BUS IN SAME AREA.

3. AS DISTURBANCE SPREAD FROM ORIGINAL STUDENT PROCESSION, MOB THREW STONES AT NEARBY READING ROOM OF AHMAYDA COMMUNITY. BOMB EXPLODED NEAR READING ROOM BUT WITHOUT SERIOUS DAMAGE. FIFTEEN PERSONS REPORTED IN VERNACULAR PRESS TO HAVE BEEN INJURED DURING POLICE LATHI CHARGE AND 20 MORE ARRESTED, SOME FOR ATTEMPTING SET FIRE TO QAISER CINEMA. OTHER UNRULY GROUPS REPORTED TO HAVE STONED BUSES AND ATTEMPTED TO DISRUPT TRAFFIC.

4. STUDENTS WHO INITIATED ABOVE DISTURBANCES SEEM TO HAVE BEEN ACTING PRIMARILY IN PROTEST AGAINST DEATH OF SUNNI STUDENTS DURING RABWAH INCIDENT ALTHOUGH THEIR OTHER PROTESTS INCLUDE ALLEGED PPP MALPRACTICES IN HYDERABAD BYE-ELECTIONS, GENERAL SUPPORT OF TEACHERS STRIKING FOR WAGE INCREASES, AND THE ARREST OF STUDENTS IN PREVIOUS INCIDENTS.

5. JUNE 7 PROMISES TO BE AN ACTIVE DAY IN KARACHI AS CITY REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVENTEEN POLITICAL, LABOR, STUDENT AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, RANGING FROM JAMAAT-I-ISLAMI TA RIGHT TO MUTAHADA MAZDOOR LABOR FEDERATION ON LEFT, HAVE CALLED FOR ONE-DAY GENERAL STRIKE TO OBSERVE "DAY OF PROTEST" AND WILL PROBABLY ATTEMPT TAKE OUT ILLEGAL PROCESSION WHICH WILL AGAIN MEET POLICE RESISTANCE. SEVENTEEN ORGANIZATIONS, ACCORDING KARACHI DAWN, ARE PROTESTING EXHORBITANT RISE IN PRICE OF CONSUMER GOODS AND HAVE CALLED UPON THE PEOPLE TO FORM ACTION COMMITTEES "IN COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, FACTORIES AND CITIES FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THEIR MINIMUM RIGHTS". ADDITIONAL DEMANDS INCLUDE REPEAL OF DPR, RELEASE ARRESTED STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND WORKERS; WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES IN BALUCHISTAN TO BARRACKS, AND UPY PERCENT REDUCTION IN PRICE CONSUMER GOODS. LEADER OF KARACHI JI, ASIF ALI, HAS WARNED BUS OWNERS NOT TO OPERATE TOMORROW SINCE EXCITED CROWDS MIGHT HARM BUSES.

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6. MEANWHILE IN LANDHI-KORANGI INDUSTRIAL AREA, THE LANDHI-KORGANI LABOR ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (LKLOC) HAS CALLED FOR STRIKE OF INDEFINITE LENGTH STARTING JUNE 6 TO PROTEST ALLEGEQ IRREGULARITIES IN REFERENDUM TO CHOOSE LABOR UNION AT ADAMJEE TEXTILE MILL AND POLICE USE OF TEAR GAS AND LATHIS AGAINST WORKERS PROTESTING AGAINST THESE IRREGULARITIES.

7. COMMENT: APPEARS SEPARATE STREAMS OF LABOR PROTEST
OVER RISING PRICES AND SECTARIAN BITTERNESS OVER RABWAH
INCIDENT IN PUNJAB AND ITS PROVINCE-WIDE CONSEQUENCES,
MAY BE COALESCING TO PRODUCE MORE TROUBLE IN KARACHI
THAN WE HAVE SEEN HERE SINCE SERIES OF STRIKES BY WORKERS
IN LANDHI AND SITE DURING FALL OF 1972. CLOSE KNIT
AHMADYA COMMUNITY IN KARACHI, ALTHOUGH NOT AS NUMEROUS
AS IN LAHORE, HAS ACHIEVED SUFFICIENT ECONOMIC SUCCESS
TO OFFER TARGETS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO INFLAME SITUATION.
NUMBER AND VARIETY OF THESE, AS SHOWN IN POLITICAL
SPECTRUM OF SEVENTEEN ORGANIZATIONS REFERRED TO ABOVE,
IS VERY WIDE.
BRYANT

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